

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 20031343-2	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP2004/051051	International filing date (day/month/year) 07/06/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 05/03/2004
Applicant AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 4

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

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Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

A contactless detection cell (1) for detecting an electrical property of one or more sample compounds in a flow path is described. The contactless detection cell (1) comprises a transmitter electrode (3) adapted for capacitively coupling an AC current into a detection channel (4) of the flow path, and a receiver electrode (5) adapted for receiving the AC current that has been coupled into the detection channel (4). An inner cross-section (ID_{DET}) in at least a section of the detection channel is different than an inner cross-section (ID_{SEP}) of the flow path (2) towards the detection channel (4).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N27/08 G01N27/447 G01N30/64

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category "	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/222664 A1 (GAS BOHUSLAV ET AL) 4 December 2003 (2003-12-04) abstract paragraphs '0002!, '0005!, '0008!, '0030! - '0035!, '0041!; figures 2,3 -----	1,5, 13-15, 17,19-21
X	HANNA M ET AL: "Novel three-dimensional capillary electrophoresis system for complex and trace analysis" JOURNAL OF CHROMATOGRAPHY, ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS B.V. AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 894, no. 1-2, 13 October 2000 (2000-10-13), pages 117-128, XP004218163 ISSN: 0021-9673 abstract, chapters 3.2., 4.1. and 4.3., see also reference '16! -/--	1-5, 13-16, 18-28

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

09/11/2004

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International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	<p>-& ZEMANN A J ET AL.: "Contactless Conductivity Detection for Capillary Electrophoresis" ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 70, no. 3, 1 February 1998 (1998-02-01), pages 563-567, XP002302491 page 564 - page 565; figure 1</p>	
Y	<p>US 2002/067174 A1 (MCALLISTER WILLIAM H) 6 June 2002 (2002-06-06)</p> <p>the whole document</p>	<p>1-5, 9-16, 18-28</p>
Y	<p>MAYRHOFER K ET AL.: "Capillary Electrophoresis and Contactless Conductivity Detection of Ions in Narrow Inner Diameter Capillaries" ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 71, no. 17, 1 September 1999 (1999-09-01), pages 3828-3833, XP002302492 abstract page 3829 - page 3830</p>	<p>1-5, 9-16, 18-28</p>
Y	<p>WO 00/75650 A (SAM FONG YAU LI ; WEI HONGPING (SG); ZHANG GUIXIN (SG); CE RESOURCES P) 14 December 2000 (2000-12-14) page 15, line 10 - page 16, line 16; figure 9</p>	<p>1-5, 9-16, 18-28</p>
A	<p>US 3 759 816 A (PRETORIUS V ET AL) 18 September 1973 (1973-09-18)</p> <p>column 7, line 64 - column 8, line 7; figure 8</p>	<p>1-5,9, 13-16, 18-28</p>

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/051051

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003222664 A1	04-12-2003	DE 10307939 A1	18-12-2003
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		US 3594294 A	20-07-1971
		US 3649498 A	14-03-1972
		US 3694335 A	26-09-1972
		US 3725232 A	03-04-1973